

April 16, 1948

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The Council of FAO today neared the end of 2-week session marked by important policy decisions affecting the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

During the same period a special session of the full Conference of FAO also met in Washington and by acclamation chose Norris E. Dodd, Under Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America, to succeed Sir John Boyd Orr as Director-General. The Conference also admitted Turkey and Ceylon to FAO, bringing total membership in the Organization to 57 nations.

#### Work of the Council

The Council of FAO, known generally as the World Food Council, is made up of representatives of 18 member nations and serves as the executive body of the Organization when the full Conference is not in session. It is meeting under the independent chairmanship of Viscount Bruce, of Melbourne. By this morning (April 16) the Council had completed action on nearly all of the items on its crowded agenda.

Some of the high lights of the Council's work follow:

1. The Council considered a report of the FAO staff on the world situation for food and agriculture, which indicates that despite some slight improvements during recent months the situation continues to be grave. "There are no grounds for undue optimism," Lord Bruce pointed out. "The world has not yet emerged from its difficulties, and the gains that have been made could be wiped out by adverse weather during the next few months." Sir John Orr, Director-General, told the Council that FAO's task is to provide the people of the world with adequate food, materials for clothing, and timber for housing. Production must be expanded, for reserves are exhausted and the population of the world is increasing."
2. It received the report of the International Emergency Food Committee and heard L. A. H. Peters, first vice chairman of the Committee, comment that although there is room for "a modest amount of cautious optimism," and appreciable progress can be made in meeting world requirements in the months ahead, those prospects have not yet materialized, and that "nations should avoid irresponsible enthusiasm" about future possibilities. The Council expressed agreement with the report and approved a resolution that all governments participating in the work of IEFC be asked to submit promptly their views on past operations and current and future problems, especially their conclusions as to the usefulness of an allocations system in the future.
3. The Council considered the Director-General's progress report in work done since the last meeting of the Council last November. It directed the secretariat of the Council to draft a section of the final Council report highlighting the importance of controlling animal diseases and infestation of



food in storage or in the field, calling upon member nations to cooperate fully in control measures, and directing the FAO to establish a central index to information on the subject....

4. In reviewing special problems referred to the Director-General at its last session the Council urged continuance of a study of fertilizer supplies and requirements, requested the Director-General to get in touch with farm machinery manufacturers in studying world needs and production possibilities, and approved emergency and longer term recommendations looking to international action to expand commercial outlets for fresh fruits and vegetables in Europe.

5. The Council reviewed the report of its Policy Committee on Production and Distribution, analyzing the policy implications of the situation. It directed the secretariat to include in the final Council report a statement pointing out the continued world need for bread grains and urging maximum plantings in all areas where spring sowing is under way or will start soon.

6. The Council heard reports of FAO programs and plans for intensifying regional work, and requested the Director-General to go ahead with plans for regional offices. It approved the establishment of an International Rice Council as recommended by the FAO Rice Conference held recently in Baguio, Philippines. It also approved the reports of the Baguio conferences on fisheries and nutrition. The fisheries report included a recommendation that governments of the Southeast Asia area establish an Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council. The achievements of the FAO-ECE timber committee and the report of the fourth meeting of European National Committees were noted and approved. Endorsement was given by the Council to the objectives of development schemes to increase essential food supplies quickly in Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon. The Council approved the convening of an international locust conference, as recommended by the FAO Near East Conference.

#### Selection of New Director-General

At its opening session, April 6, the Conference chose Sir Carl Berendsen, of New Zealand, as its chairman, and named three vice chairmen--Henrik de Kauffman, of Denmark; Mohamed Amin Zaki, of Egypt, and Dr. Newton de Castro Belleza, of Brazil.

On April 14 the General Committee of the Conference recommended the appointment of Mr. Dodd as Director-General, and the report was accepted by acclamation, without a formal ballot.

It is expected that the new Director-General will take office within a few weeks. His appointment runs through the close of the 1950 session of the FAO Conference and is renewable at that time for any period agreed upon mutually.

Accepting the post of Director-General, Mr. Dodd laid emphasis on the need for concrete, practical action by and within each nation. "Nevertheless,"



he said, "in FAO the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This Organization's work is a stronger force than any separate efforts could be, because of our mutual pledge to take action, nation by nation, and nation together with nation, in order to feed the world better and to improve the lot of the world's rural people. I do not say that FAO alone can bring the world a better and more secure food supply. But I do say FAO can help. I do not say that food alone will bring order, decency, and peace into the world. But I do believe that there can be no peace in a hungry world."

Recalling the early days of FAO, Sir John Orr said: "I warned the FAO Conference at Quebec that it would be a miracle if FAO ever succeeded, but that as we live in an age of miracles we must try because there was no other hope for humanity--if FAO failed the world would drift into chaos. I believe that profoundly today. The miracle is taking place! . . .

"We all know that the world is now so small that the nations must cooperate or we will drift into another war of mutual destruction. It is difficult to get nations to cooperate on a political level--the world is torn by political strife--but through FAO the nations are cooperating. . . ."

Turning to Mr. Dodd, Sir John said: "Now, sir, you take over. It is the most worth-while job in the world. . . . Under your leadership, FAO will attain its objectives. Its motto is 'Fiat Panis'--let bread be produced. I am sure, sir, that under your leadership the earth will give its food, the people will prosper, the nations will cooperate to this end. In producing a world of plenty they will lay the foundation for a world of peace. Sir, millions in all continents are looking to you. . . ."

Mr. Dodd has been Under Secretary of Agriculture in the Government of the United States since April 1946. He has been associated with the administration of national farm programs since 1933.

He was head of the United States delegation at the second session of the FAO Conference in Copenhagen in 1946. He was named U. S. delegate to the FAO Preparatory Commission to study world food program proposals. He was U. S. delegate to the Third Session of the FAO Conference in Geneva in 1947. He has served as chief U. S. representative at both sessions of the recently organized Council of FAO. He was named chairman of the U. S. delegation to the International Wheat Council in January of this year, and has long been a member of that Council.

Mr. Dodd still operates a 2,000-acre farm located in the irrigated area near Haines, Oreg., devoted to wheat, barley, hay, and pasture. He has been a livestock producer for many years, and specializes in Hereford cattle.

Mr. Dodd was born July 20, 1879, in Chickasaw County, Iowa. He lived in North and South Dakota before settling in Oregon in 1900. After several years as a pharmacist, he began in 1910 to devote his full time to farming.



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